

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 098044
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /054 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:CDAVIS
APPROVED BY ARA:MR. WYROUGH
-----051086 180014Z /75
O 172349Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 098044

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PN, PBOR, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: SEN. BYRD'S SPEECH REGARDING CANAL TREATY DEBATE

- - - -

1. HERE ARE THE REMARKS MADE BY SEN. BYRD:

2. "LET ME TURN FOR A MOMENT TO THE PANAMANIAN. IN THIS
LENGTHY AND WIDE-RANGING DEBATE, NUMEROUS COMMENTS HAVE
BEEN MADE ABOUT PANAMA, PANAMANIAN HISTORY, THE
PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. PANAMA, UNLIKE OUR
RICHLY ENDOWED NATION, IS NOT BLESSED WITH GREAT NATURAL
RESOURCES. ITS GREATEST ASSETS ARE ITS PEOPLE, AND ITS
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION -- THE ISTHMUS THROUGH WHICH THE
WORLD'S TWO LARGEST BODIES OF WATER HAVE BEEN LINKED. A
TRANSLATED VERSION OF SOME OF OUR DEBATE HAS BEEN
BROADCAST ON PANAMANIAN RADIO, AND THERE HAS BEEN
EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE PANAMANIAN PRESS. THE CANAL IS,
OF COURSE, A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO PANAMA, IT IS
THE VERY LIFEblood OF THAT COUNTRY. IT IS A SUBJECT ABOUT
WHICH PANAMANIAN HAVE FELT STRONGLY FOR DECADES. THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 098044

PANAMANIAN HAVE TAKEN UNDERSTANDABLE OFFENSE AT SOME OF
THE REMARKS MADE HERE, AND SOME, I FEAR, HAVE BEEN
MISINTERPRETED OR MISUNDERSTOOD. I BELIEVE THE PANAMANIAN
HAVE EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT AND WANT TO COMMEND
THEM FOR MAINTAINING THEIR EQUANIMITY IN THIS SITUATION.
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW, AND I HOPE THE PEOPLE OF THE

WORLD WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT, IN THE TRADITION OF THE
SENATE, OUR DEBATE HAS BEEN FREE, OPEN, AND UNRESTRAINED.
THIS IS THE GENIUS OF OUR SYSTEM, WHICH PRESUMES THAT NO
INDIVIDUAL, NO GROUP OR PARTY HAS SOLE ACCESS TO THE
TRUTH. RATHER, THROUGH DEBATE AND ARGUMENT, THROUGH THE
COMPETITION OF IDEAS, WE HOPE TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION
WHICH SERVES THE PRINCIPLES AND THE INTERESTS OF THIS
COUNTRY. BUT WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN, WHEN THE DECISION
HAS BEEN MADE, WE PRESENT TO THE WORLD AN UNDIVIDED FRONT
WE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ABROAD, ALTHOUGH AT HOME -- BEFORE
THE TIME FOR DECISION -- WE NOT ONLY TOLERATE BUT
ENCOURAGE THE FREE EXPRESSION OF DIFFERENCES." CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, CANALS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE098044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CDAVIS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-1046
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaaboqn.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 644588ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2941116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEN. BYRD'S SPEECH REGARDING CANAL TREATY DEBATE - - - -
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PINT, PN, (BYRD, HARRY F JR)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/644588ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014